

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 371/94 (AFR 24/11/94, 7 October 1994) - Fear of torture / Prisoners of conscience and new concern: Torture / Fear of further arrests

EQUATORIAL GUINEA	Indalecio Abuy)	
	Indalecio Eko)	human rights activists
	Tomás Nzo)	
	new names:		
	Plácido Micó)	
	Victorino Bolekia Banay)	political
	José Mecheba Ikaka)	activists
	Amancio Gabriel Nze)	

Amnesty International has received reports that Indalecio Abuy, Indalecio Eko and Tomás Nzo, arrested on 6 October 1994, have been tortured in custody. Furthermore, the organization has learned of the arrest and torture of four more political activists, whom it also believes are prisoners of conscience, detained on account of their peaceful human rights and political activities. There are fears that further arrests and torture will occur in what is now a precarious human rights situation in Equatorial Guinea.

Amancio Gabriel Nze, the Secretary General of the *Convergencia para la Democracia Social* (CPDS), Convergence for Social Democracy, was arrested by four security officers on the night of 7 October in the capital Malabo, on Bioko island. About one month earlier he and one of the officers had been involved in a minor car accident and, following a court case, Amancio Gabriel Nze had paid the security official a sum of money in compensation. On 7 October, the four security officers followed Amancio Gabriel Nze as he left a bar, stopped him in the street and asked him for money. When he refused they ordered him to follow them to the police station, but he again refused as they had no arrest warrant. The four then beat him, tore his clothes and dragged him to the police station where he was accused of assaulting the four officers.

Plácido Micó, a leading member of the CPDS and former prisoner of conscience, Victorino Bolekia Bonay, Vice-president of the *Alianza Democrática Popular* (ADP), People's Democratic Alliance, and José Mecheba Ikaka, President of *Unión Democrática Nacional* (UDENA), National Democratic Union, were arrested in Acalayong on 9 October soon after they had crossed the border from Gabon, where they had been attending a conference in Libreville. On 10 October they were transferred to the police station in Bata, the capital of Rio Muni, where they are being held. The three have been tortured. Amnesty International does not yet know the precise reason for their arrest.

Tension mounted sharply in Equatorial Guinea in early September after opposition parties called for a boycott of a population census which violated the terms of an agreement made between the government and the opposition in June 1994. Under the terms of the agreement the electoral census, compiled with the participation of the opposition parties, was a precondition for holding the municipal elections scheduled for late 1994. Opposition parties, who are not involved in compiling the population census, fear that the government could distort this census in its own favour and then use it as a basis for the elections. Scores of people suspected of opposing the population census have been arrested. Tension increased after Aguado Ndong Nguema, who had refused to give his personal details to census officials, was killed on 29 September 1994 in what may have

been an extrajudicial execution (UA 363/94, AFR 24/09/94, 3 October).

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in Spanish or in your own language:

- expressing concern about the wave of recent arrests of human rights and political activists and others suspected of opposing the census;
- stating that Amnesty International considers that Plácido Micó, Victorino Bolekia Banay, José Mecheba Ikaka, Amancio Gabriel Nze, Indalecio Abuy, Indalecio Eko and Tomás Nzo are prisoners of conscience arrested solely on account of their peaceful political and human rights activities, and calling for their immediate and unconditional release;
- expressing serious concern at the reports that the seven have been subjected to torture, and seeking assurances that they are now being treated in accordance with international human rights standards and given access to family members, lawyers and medical personnel;
- urging that all those arrested in connection with the population census be released unless they are to be charged promptly with a recognizably criminal offence.

APPEALS TO

1) President

General de Brigada Teodoro Obiang Nguema
 Presidente de la República
 Gabinete del Presidente
 Malabo, Guinea Ecuatorial

Telegrams: Presidente Obiang Nguema, Malabo, Guinea Ecuatorial

Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG

Faxes: + 240 9 3313

Salutation: Su Excelencia/Your Excellency

2) Minister of Interior

Julio Ndong Ela Mangué
 Ministro de Interior
 Ministerio de Interior
 Malabo, Guinea Ecuatorial

Telegrams: Ministro de Interior Ndong Ela, Malabo, Guinea Ecuatorial

Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG

Salutation: Excelentísimo Señor/Dear Minister

3) Minister of Justice

Francisco Javier Ndong Mbengono
 Ministro de Justicia y Culto
 Ministerio de Justicia y Culto
 Malabo, Guinea Ecuatorial

Telegrams: Ministro de Justicia Ndong Mbengono, Malabo, Guinea Ecuatorial

Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG

Salutation: Excelentísimo Señor/Dear Minister

4) Foreign Minister

Miguel Oyono Ndong Mifumu
 Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores
 Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores
 Malabo, Guinea Ecuatorial

Telegrams: Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores Oyono Ndong, Malabo, Guinea Ecuatorial

Telexes: 5405 GBNOM 5405 EG

Faxes: + 240 9 2320

Salutation: Excelentísimo Señor/Dear Minister

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Equatorial Guinea accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 25 November 1994

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